

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the above-identified Office Action. The above listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the proposed amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

In this response claims 3, 8, 14 and 21 are written into independent form, and claims 1-2 and 25-28 are cancelled. Inasmuch as claims 3-20 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter, it is submitted that these amendments place the claims in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

The rejection of claims 1-2 and 25-27 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshii et al. (Yoshii) in view of newly cited Okabe, is rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

Conclusion

It is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are courteously solicited.

Date December 23, 2004  
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP  
Customer Number: 22428  
Telephone: (202) 672-5327  
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Respectfully submitted,

By 

William T. Ellis  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 26,874

Keith J. Townsend  
Registration No. 40,358